

# DIG

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## Belmont Businesses:

A breakdown of the ever-changing shops in Belmont Shore p.8 >>

DIG magazine

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# EDITOR'S note

By Niki Valencia

## Tis' the season...



"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation", "Home Alone 2", and "A Christmas Story" are undoubtedly my favorite part of this holiday season. Call me a sucker for corny and lovable Christmas movies, because I can never get enough of them. Even the bad ones that deserve a lump of coal (i.e. Fred Clause, Jingle All the Way) manage to retain a holiday charm to them. Through all the disasters and catastrophes that occur each festive season, and especially in every Christmas film, we are reminded of the true importance of the holidays: family, friends, health, and happiness.

As we all know, the weeks leading up to the joyful holiday happens to be the time of finals, when we spend countless hours at "club lib" attempting to retain every bit of information we can. Sleepless nights, unhealthy meals, and a lack of social life later, we can finally embrace Christmas with all the old-school holiday films that bring us back to our childhood.

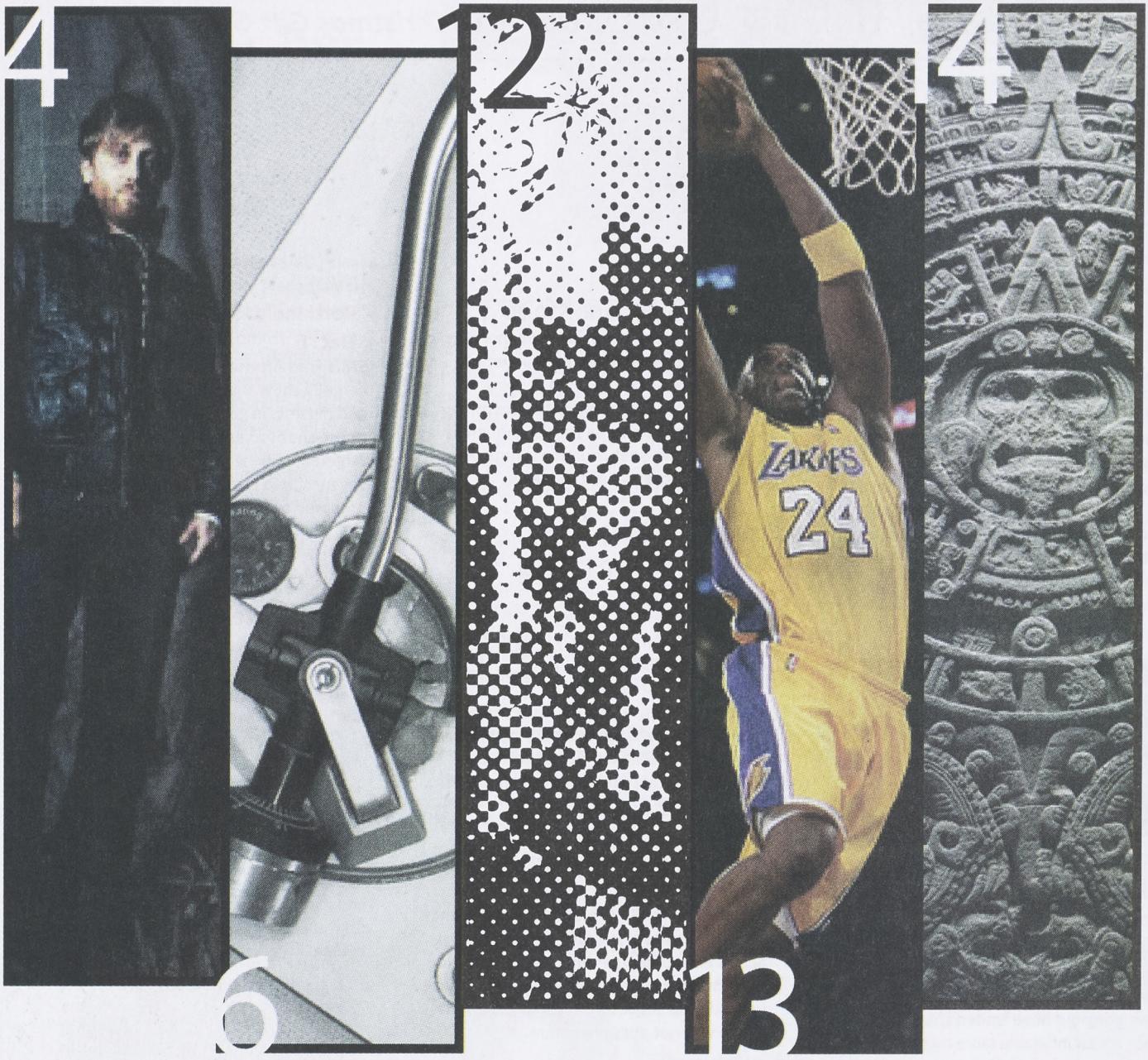
For those of you whose heads will be glued to their books during finals week, and need some quick ideas for Christmas gifts, check out our gift guide on pages 4 and 5. Also, be sure to read about one club on campus, Petra, whose mission is to give back as they prepare for their annual Giving Tree event. The inspiring club on campus exudes the real meaning of Christmas by adopting a family in need each year and giving more than just food and presents, but their hearts as well. On the topic of inspiring students, our story on a new student-based website, hyperlinked.us, showcases a group of anonymous students on campus who created the site with the pivotal point of making a change. Their motivation to improve societal issues reiterates the idea that we must get fully informed if we expect progression. Finally, scroll through our 2012 bucket list on page 14 for must-do activities before the so-called "end of the world."

In the words of Clark Griswold, I wish you all the "Hap-hap-happiest Christmas since Bing Crosby tap-danced with Danny freaking Kaye." Good luck with finals, and we'll see you back in February.

Niki Valencia

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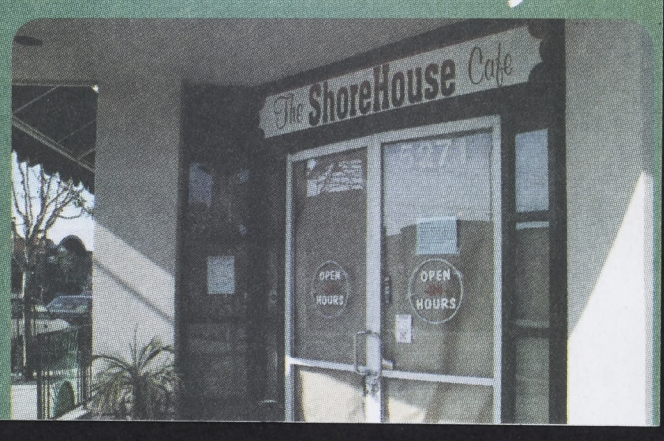
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## coverstory



# Gifts for him

By **Matt Grippi**

[Album]

**The Black Keys "El Camino"**

**Dec 6**

The Black Keys have been around for about a decade now, but it wasn't until their 2010 release "Brothers" when they really got noticed. With the White Stripes gone, there was a space open for a two-person blues-rock group, and the Black Keys have filled it. "El Camino's" first single "Lonely Boy" was released on Oct. 26 and has the same catchy chorus and dirty guitar riffs that we have come to expect. This is going to be a perfect soundtrack for the rest of 2011.



Picture courtesy of theblackkeys.com

[Gift Idea]

**Port-o-pong**

**$49.99**

The Port-o-pong is a great gift for your fellow college student who likes to play beer pong but have limited space available. It's an inflatable table that can be used anywhere, including in the pool if you don't mind the possibility of a little beer spilling. The chlorine is a good way to make sure that ping-pong ball gets sanitized in between shots.




Picture courtesy of portopong.com

[Gift Idea]

**Puzzle Alarm Clock: $30.00**

Having trouble waking up in the morning? This alarm clock forces you to assemble a simple puzzle before it stops going off, which wakes up your brain and keeps you from hitting snooze. Be careful though, this is sure to drive your roommate nuts, especially if you lose any of the pieces.

[Stocking Stuffer]

**Caffeinated Soap**

**$6.99 - $37.99**




Picture courtesy of thinkgeek.com

Yes, you read that correctly. This soap actually contains caffeine that can be absorbed through the skin. Give yourself a burst of energy in the morning even before you get coffee. Makes a great stocking stuffer for a sleep-deprived college student.

[DVD]

**"Rise of the Planet of the Apes"**

**Dec. 13**

This surprising "Return to the Planet of the Apes" franchise was easily one of the best action films of the summer. Andy Serkis' performance as Caesar, the ape, was amazing and gave some humanity to the animal, which was not possible before.

[DVD]

**"Midnight in Paris"**

**Dec. 20**

Woody Allen makes at least one movie every year, but lately most of those have been mediocre at best. His latest film, however, was a critical and financial success. Owen Wilson does a great job of playing a surrogate version of Allen himself, and a very clever time travel storyline makes this a return to form for the legendary filmmaker.

[DVD]

**"Portlandia: Season 1"**

**Dec. 6**

SNL's Fred Armisen is hilarious in this sketch comedy show that makes fun of Portland and hipsters in general. Everybody from music-snobs to environmentalists are targeted, making this the perfect gift for the vegan/hippie in your life, but only if they're prepared to laugh at themselves.

[Video Games]

**"Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword"**




Picture courtesy of wikipedia.com

The perfect gift for anybody who has already overplayed "Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3," and is looking for a change of pace. This is a direct prequel to the N64 classic game "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time," and it will finally give you a reason to dust off that Wii that you were starting to regret buying.



# Gifts for her

By **Sofia Yassine**



Picture courtesy of groupon.com

[dvds]

**"Friends with Benefits"**
**Dec. 2**

If you're wondering what new DVD release to buy your girl this holiday season, this romantic comedy is your best bet. Not only does it have the typical insanely attractive couple played by "Family Guy's" Mila Kunis and the surprisingly multi-talented actor Justin Timberlake, but it follows the "let's be friends with all the benefits and see where it goes" plot, a scenario most college students have been able to relate to at one point. While it includes the usual chick-flick norms, it depicts young relationships in the modern day social-media filled world in a way that's refreshing enough for both girls and guys to enjoy.




Picture courtesy of target.com

[spoiler alert]

**groupon.com**

It's no secret every girl enjoys being spoiled, even if she doesn't admit it. Thankfully, websites like groupon.com and livingsocial.com are out there to provide easy access to all the deals a girl would love. Whether it's a $35 coupon for a sensual one-hour massage valued at $80, or $25 for 20 hot yoga sessions valued at $180, there's an endless variety of opportunities in the Long Beach area and beyond that will satisfy whatever type of girl you're trying to pamper. If you're looking for a getaway that your girl and friends can enjoy, they offer deals like a two-night stay for $118 valued at $338 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Vegas. These sites are able to offer the best prices because of the "minimum customer guarantee deals" they secure with businesses, so make sure to watch for expiration and redemption dates, which fluctuate daily.

[fashion]

Any girl appreciates an addition to her wardrobe, so long as it's not a pair of over-alls or tie-dye Crocs. If you want to play it safe, help keep your girl warm this season by stepping into the abyss of stores like Forever 21 or Urban Outfitters and buying her an eternity scarf, priced anywhere from $7- $40 depending on the material and pattern. If you're feeling a little more adventurous, consider getting your girl a pair of wedge boots or an evening dress she could wear for a New Year's night out.



urbanoutfitters.com
BDG Zigzag
Eternity Scarf
$29.00

[entertainment]

While the holiday season is meant to be full of jolly good spirits, it can often leave us stressed and in need of the sort of cheer that has nothing to do with "old St. Nick." Help your girl de-stress by taking her to a comedy show. You can visit laughstub.com to find promos for comedy clubs in the Los Angeles area, like Hollywood Improv's show for $5, or Laugh Factory Long Beach's All Star Showcase at $18 per ticket. When trips to the movie theaters or nights in watching NBA-less cable are simply not cutting it, this could be the gift that does.

Picture courtesy of laughfactory.com

[abstract]

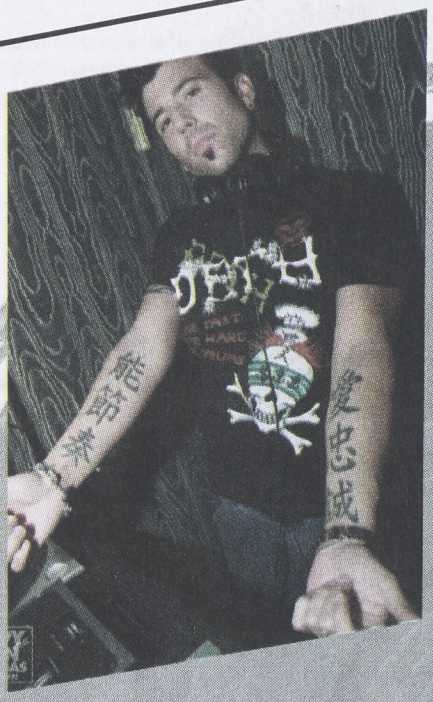
The best gifts are the ones that hold the element of surprise. Girls can usually sense when gifts entailed as minimal thought as possible. So rather than buying whatever is at arm's length in the jewelry section of Target, think about getting something she'd truly appreciate. If she likes spontaneity, pick her up and tell her you're going on a day road trip (that includes a stop to get her favorite kind of food). If her current playlist is outdated, make her a couple of mix CDs. If she's obsessed with Conde Nast magazine, get her a year's subscription. Cliché yet true, it's the thought that counts.




Picture courtesy of vogue.com

# Current Dynamics of the Artist-DJ Relationship: Both Sides Weigh In

By Brittany "Bella" Graham



"Its kinda wack that a lot of artists don't know they need to bring their own DJ to a show," said Billie Knight, on-air radio personality and disc jockey for Power 98 FM.
"Most artists typically just use the house DJ or whoever's there. Unfortunately, when something goes wrong with their CD – it skips or whatever – then it falls back on me, the DJ," Knight continued.

It's 7 p.m. on a Wednesday night and Knight is scheduled to DJ the kickoff show for West Coast rapper the Game's R.E.D. album tour, in less than 24 hours, but tonight a more pressing issue is weighing in on his mind.

His previous statement, which refers to a lack of knowledge about the historical and professional nature of the artist-DJ relationship on the part of the artist, perhaps hits the nail on the head with the reason why he believes so many underground artists are dissatisfied with current artist-DJ relationships.

"The relationship's not there," said Knight. "Back in the day, the artist would be at the club with a record like, 'yo, can you put my record on?' I don't know when the last time an artist came up to me in the club and asked me to do that."

Knight also believes that many artists are ignorant of proper submission formats.

"The proper format is MP3," said Knight. "Send an instrumental, a clean version, a dirty version, and an eight-bar version. Eight-bars are good because it starts off eight bars into the song, which is good for mixing."

DJ Impact, a disc jockey for more than 15 years and current Sirius XM Shade 45 DJ, shares some of Knight's sentiments regarding pivotal misunderstandings between artists and DJs.

"A lot of artists [think] a DJ's job is to get out, find new artists and break their music, when really it's not," said Impact. "A DJ's job is to entertain the crowds that he's hired to entertain."

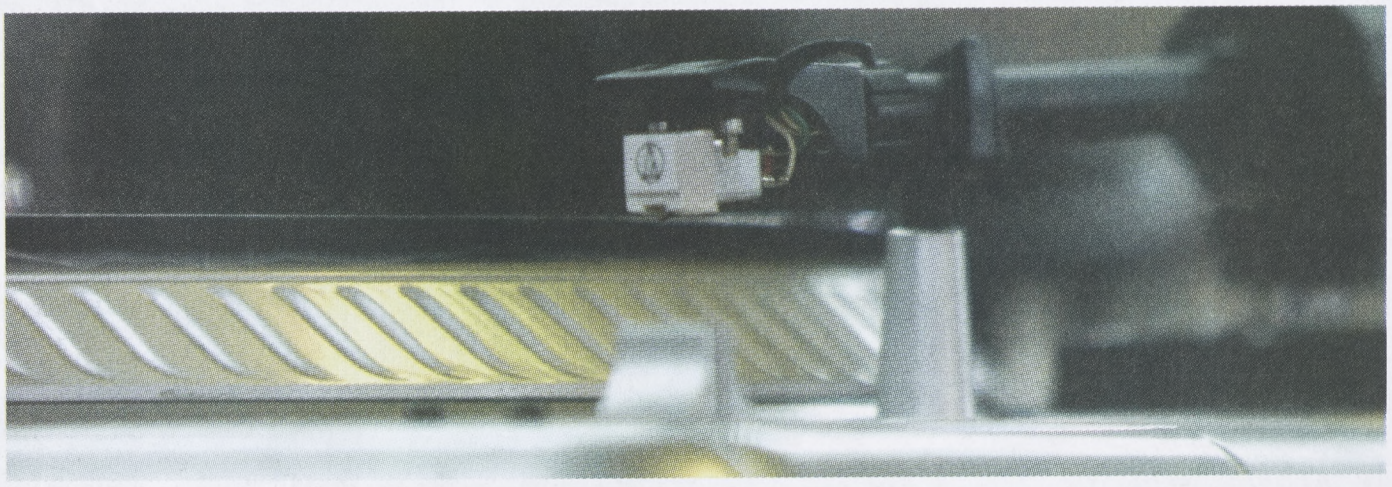
Furthermore, Impact said that a severe lack of professionalism and inappropriate timing are some of the biggest downfalls of aspiring artists.

"If you're going to send an email, send a somewhat intelligent email," Impact said. "Don't just say, 'this is the hottest shit ever, you need to play this.'"

Moreover, Impact said that the worst cases of un-professionalism are typically found on social networks.

"A lot of DJ's Twitter pet-peeve is when they're having a conversation with a friend and then some idiot artist hits reply all," said Impact. "That's like you and your friend sitting down and having a conversation

*"Crowds are creatures of habit; they wanna hear everything they hear on the radio"*
*-DJ Mikey Swift*



**OPPOSITE PAGE**: DJ Mikey Swift **BOTTOM LEFT:** DJ Billie Knight, DJ photographs courtesy of the Dj's.
ABOVE: Photos courtesy of creativecommons.org




during dinner, and then I run up and stick a CD in your face."

Impact also warns artists about looking needy by not taking the time to personalize their tweets.

"A lot of artists do a copy and paste thing; they'll send the same message to every DJ," said Impact.

Unfortunately, some artists aren't convinced that a lack of knowledge on their part is where the attention should be concentrated.

C-Nice, a local Long Beach rapper and Cal State Fullerton graduate, doesn't believe that DJs put forth enough effort to help upcoming artists. Consequently, he brings up the subject of DJs charging money to host the mix tapes that underground artists hope will build "street buzz."

"I don't think that DJs should charge artists to promote them; artists should charge the DJs," said C-Nice. "If DJs compete for that hot new record, then how is giving them money to host a mix tape taking them to the next level?"

DJ Impact disagrees. "If I have to provide my vocal talent to make your CD interesting – or you want to introduce your music to my fan base – then why wouldn't I charge for that?" said Impact. "There are certain DJs where it makes sense to pay because they have a name for themselves and hosting your mix tape adds value."

DJ Mikey Swift – a resident of Las Vegas, works at some of the most popular clubs on the strip such as Rehab, Studio 54, LAX and Pure and thinks the issue lies with artists not knowing the proper channels.

"In Vegas, we have thousands of people coming in from all over the world," said Swift. "It's just not the place to [experiment on the crowds and throw in songs nobody knows]."

According to Swift, DJs nowadays have access to their own databases and record pools such as Direct Music Service, DJ City and MP3 Pool where they obtain new music.

"Since these companies do nothing but serve us, I think artists would have better luck if they went through them as opposed to approaching DJs directly," said Swift.

He also mentions that party-goers also play a huge role in whether new records get broken.

"Crowds are creatures of habit; they wanna hear everything they hear on the radio," said Swift. "It's not that the music is bad, it's just that nobody knows it."

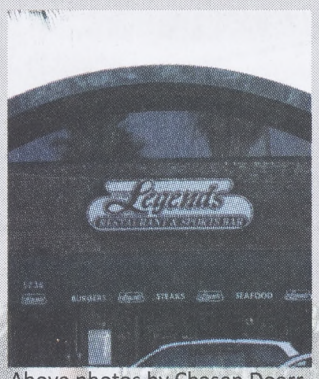
Despite their varying stances on the issue, all of the DJs agree on one thing: personal interaction is essential to building a good relationship.

"It's all about how I'm approached personally," said Swift. "Sometimes with texting and writing, you can't really tell somebody's intentions like you can face-to-face. I'm much more receptive to something like that."

# A Breakdown of Belmont Businesses

by Niki Valencia







Above photos by Chasen Doerr.
Right page photo by lbhappyhour.com.

Welcome to the Shore, Belmont Shore that is. A place where you can stroll the streets this winter season and become enticed with the bright Christmas lights, green and red holiday décor and fury reefs on almost every lamp-post on the street.

While Christmas decorations on Belmont Shore have been coming up since the start of November, local businesses have recently been closing down.

Belmont is a lovely beach zone surrounded with multiple shops, boutiques, salons and restaurants, but it's also been the constant site of businesses coming, going and constantly changing.

For starters, the card-boarded covered windows of the recently closed 24-hour Shore House café. The café closed earlier in the year for renovations, but is now closed indefinitely, disappointing weekend bar crawlers in the mood for a late-night meal.

"Businesses are always coming and going. It's sad when the mom-and-pop stores close and corporate ones move in," said Darlene Smiley, Belmont Shore resident of 20 years. "But it's nice at the same time because the corporate businesses stay."

Taking over the former Shore House café will be another restaurant by the name of Simmzy's – a gourmet-style pub offering salads, burgers, sandwiches and 30 craft beers on tap.

"The menu will be the same as the Manhattan Beach location, plus wood fire Italian-style pizza's that are really good," said Mike Simms, owner of Simmzy's. "Each item is focused on high quality in a casual environment."

Simms is no stranger to the restaurant industry as his father and grandfather are the founders of the well-known restaurant chain Mimi's Café.

"I was born into it [the business]," continued Simms.

The beach-lovers themed eatery is set to open in spring 2012 after renovations have been completed. "We're working with an award-winning architect for the building," explained Simms.

Another Belmont Shore staple with family-ties that recently close in November is Bono's Restaurant, owned by Christy Bono, daughter of the late Sonny Bono.

Bono's will be replaced by another high-end restaurant – Nick's on Second Street. According to the restaurant's website, it is set to open in spring 2012, as well.

The restaurant businesses in Belmont are not the only ones experiencing changes. Popular late-night bars, Legends and Panama Joes, lately began to charge cover prices for bar-goers after 11 p.m. on the weekends, upsetting many consistent customers.

"I wouldn't pay. It's not worth it when I could just go somewhere else," said Roxanna Rubio, CSULB student.

In addition to cover charges, the bars in Belmont Shore have been in an on-going debate with neighborhood associations who are not pleased with the late-night activities of bar-goers on their streets.

"The home owners are grumpy and trying to get the bars to close at midnight," said Ellie Bluemel, bartender at Acapulco Inn.

Acapulco Inn also underwent a recent



> *"The good part about working in Belmont is there's a sense of commodity."*

change with the opening of their kitchen.

"We now serve breakfast, it's called the Dirtbag Deli," continued Bluemel.

More transformations in the Belmont scenery include the closing of Paul Sahlin Tiffany's Incorporated, also known as Paul's Lamps, and 5001 furniture store.

Despite the ever-changing climate of business in Belmont, one thing remains the same, and that's the sense of community among the businesses and workers in the area.

"I'll miss the girls at Shore House, they were our late night customers," said Emily Bryson, employee at the Starbucks on Second Street. "The good part about working in Belmont is there's a sense of commodity. We take care of each other and we're really friendly."

While Long Beach and Belmont locals say good-bye to a few Belmont businesses, the area still promises a charm that will continue into this holiday season as it welcomes new businesses in the coming year with high hopes.

"We're all about being a great neighbor," added Simms.

## Mike Simms, founder of Simmzy's



Photos courtesy of aaa.com.

Mike Simms, owner and founder of Simmzy's, opened his first restaurant three ago in Manhattan Beach, Calif. His father and grandfather are the founders of the popular restaurant chain Mimi's Café. He graduated Cornell University majoring in Hospitality.

"The most important thing I learned is to love what you're doing. Growing up watching my father and grandfather, I can't remember ever seeing them upset, they were passionate about what they did."

Simms decided to open up the second location of Simmzy's in Belmont Shore after his chef partner convinced him that the area would be perfect for their business that centralizes around a beach lifestyle.


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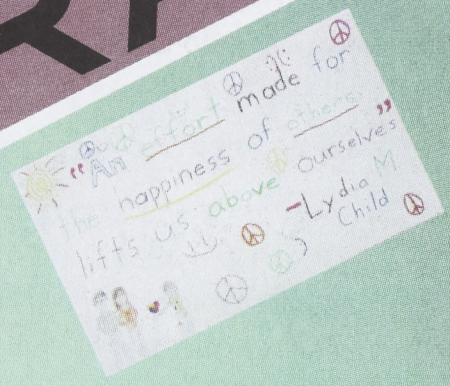



PHOTOS OBTAINED FROM PETRA CSULB FACEBOOK PAGE.

# PETRA

## THE CLUB THAT GIVES BACK

BY KRISTYN LEON




It's the most wonderful time of the year. Exchanging those ornate gifts under the colorfully-lit Christmas tree, the sweet smell of delicious delights cascading throughout the kitchen, and cozying up with that significant someone by the dimly lit fire, burning through a cold wintery night.

While most of us are putting together our Christmas lists this holiday season, the Petra Club at Cal State Long Beach is putting together their "grown up" Christmas list, not for themselves, but for other families in need.

The spirit of Christmas offers a time to give, a time to appreciate, a time of selflessness. In the words of Mark Twain, "it is better to give than to receive" and this is true for the CSULB Petra Club, a community service oriented club that promotes events of all kinds: Food banks, beach cleanups, humanitarian causes, and during Christmas time, the Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree is an annual event that this campus club is known for. The club itself, established in 2004 on the CSULB campus, extends throughout the greater Los Angeles area, Long Beach, parts of Orange County and Costa Mesa. The Greek translation for Petra is "pebble," as a pebble makes ripples when it is thrown in the water, Petra seeks and strives to make ripples at the university and in the community.

"With direction from the Long Beach Health Department, Petra 'adopts' a Long Beach family in need and gives them a Christmas full of presents, decorations and good food," said Emma Hawes, president of Petra. "Giving Tree offers us the opportunity to not only to give back during the holiday season, but also see how our contributions have directly made a positive effect to the family," she continued.

> "CHRISTMAS IS A TIME TO APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE AND GIVE BACK TO THOSE WHO REALLY NEED IT. "

This collaborative community effort during Christmas time eludes "tidings of comfort and joy" for its members as well.

"Last year, our family was a mom, dad, and six young kids under the age of six in a two bedroom apartment in North Long Beach. We brought over a Christmas tree, decorations, and gave them a big screen TV," said Hannah Patton, Petra's public relations officer. "What broke my heart was when one of the little kids became so excited, he said, 'they never had a real Christmas tree before'. This in itself brought tears to my eyes."

Hawes also shares the same outlook on her Giving Tree experience.

"Giving Tree has given Petra a whole new outlook on the meaning of Christmas because it reiterates that Christmas isn't just about getting presents and more stuff that we want, but a time to help out those who really need these things they are asking for," she said. "Many are just struggling to get by in day-to-day life, so Christmas is a time to appreciate what you have and give back to those who really need it. "

Made up of over 40 members, Petra is also known for their other charitable work in the Long Beach area such as lunches for the homeless, local car washes, fund raisers, and beach cleanups.

"The thing that I love most about giving back is that it really shows that any little thing you do can make a big difference," said Patton.

Being a neighbor to your fellow community members is much more than just living in the same area for this group of involved individuals. It's about fellowship, fostering companionship, and self-less acts of love that go a long way. Miracles happen, especially at this most wonderful time of the year.

# JOE JOST'S

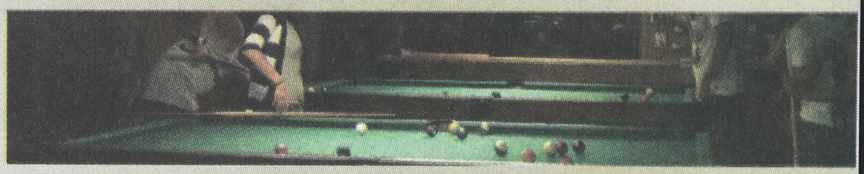
## A LOOK INSIDE LONG BEACH'S OLDEST TAVERN

*By Lizeth Beltran*







Above: Inside Joe Jost's Tavern. The wall of photos behind the bar feature customers in Joe Jost's shirts all around the world. Photos contributed by Lizeth Beltran.

Beer, peanuts, bar stools, the clink of beer glasses, all this can be found in bars across the country. But at Joe Jost's in Long Beach, it's more about the experience than just the beer.

First opened in 1924 as a barbershop, Joe's – as the regulars call it – was started by Joe Jost, a man of Hungarian roots who came to the United States through Ellis Island in New York. Jost traveled through the United States and settled in southern California.

"Times were tough back then," said Ken Buck, owner and the grandson of Joe Jost. "My grandfather started serving sandwiches and beer in 1934 (after prohibition ended) and still had his barbershop."

Safety issues regarding the cutting of hair while also serving food and the numbers in profits drove Jost to look at his books and then decide to turn his barbershop into a full-time bar with a friendly environment.

"Joe's is the kind of place where if you haven't been back in five years, you can come back and feel comfortable, feel the same as you did before," said Buck.

Not too much has changed at Joe's since it first opened, with only a few minor changes like air conditioning, a Marmion peanut roaster that is more than 100 years old and a blizzard beer system that keeps beer at a constant temperature of 28 degrees.

When patrons walk into Joe's, it takes a few seconds to take in the scenery. There's a loud chatter of people talking all around the room, but there are also smiles coming from behind the bar. Joe's may look small from the outside, but once inside, one can see the exterior does not do justice to the interior of the bar.

For those visiting for the first time, there are a number of things to try from the menu. Joe's is well known to customers for its beer, the "special" and the pickled eggs. The "special" is a Polish sausage on rye bread with Swiss cheese, mustard and a pickle. Of course there are those who come for some freshly roasted peanuts as well.

"I love coming to Joe's for the roasted peanuts and the ice cold beer," said Ronnie Grenawalt, a Long Beach resident who's been coming to Joe's for forty years. Grenawalt first started coming to Joe's when he was 22-years-old, and five years ago he introduced his friend Randy Larkin to Joe's.

"I've met a lot of old friends, guys I hadn't seen in 30 or 40 years," Grenawalt said. "It's a good place to hang out."

Among many customers, the common refrain is that Joe's is a place where you can find old and new friends.

"The people that come in, it's a place where even if you don't know the person, you can sit down and talk with them -- it's not pretentious," said Randy Reynolds of Long Beach. "Joe Jost's is the West Coast's 'Cheers'."

For Shawn Flathers, who has been a bartender at Joe's for 26 years, working at Joe's is like working with family. "There is a family atmosphere," he said. "I love the customers; everyone gets along very well."

Not only known for its friendly atmosphere, Joe's popularity reaches beyond borders and across seas around the world.

"One customer took a picture while wearing his Joe Jost's T-shirt on vacation by the Wall of China and sent the picture back," Buck said. "Soon after, we had more people doing the same thing and now we have a wall of pictures with customers wearing their T-shirts around the world."

Joe's can also be seen on the big screen. As one of the oldest taverns in Long Beach, it has been used in the film industry many times. "Joe's has been used many times as a film set – the last film was "License to Wed" with Robin Williams," said Buck. "Robert De Niro and Robert Duvall have also shot films here."

Joe's has been on screen, on the back of T-shirts all over the world, and has stood in the same location in Long Beach since 1924, but these are not the reasons why customers come to Joe's. Regardless if you like beer, pickled eggs, or you just want to hang out, Joe Jost's is a place that fits anyone who wants to have a good time.

As Ken Buck explained, "Coming to Joe's is like coming home."

# HYPERLINKED

## Get Hyped about getting Linked

BY *Tracy Parra*

Have you ever felt there was something wrong with the school systems, the food that you are eating and the tuition that you are paying? The solution to these problems can be found at a new website launched by a group of CSULB design students called hyperlinked.

This group of design students are being kept anonymous for privacy reasons, but they want their website to be discovered. The website, hyperlinked.us, covers topics such as drugs, food, health, oil, prison systems, bullying and the CSU tuition hikes.

The website was created in just a matter of weeks by the design students who felt motivated to make a major change.

"The hyperlinked website grew out of a class discussion about how designers need to take a social role in advancing important issues instead of merely worshiping the golden cow of advertising and salary," said the professor of the group of students who created the site.

The professor is also being kept anonymous with the students involved.

Photos courtesy of hyperlinked.us



"When I saw that the students were authentically concerned about a wide spectrum of topics, I wanted to cultivate their sense of concern and give them a chance to apply their design skills to their social concerns," he continued.

After hours of in-class discussions, the group of students concluded on the most vital topics they were concerned about, most notably, the CSU tuition increases.

"The professor talked to us about the times that students would have walkouts and protests," said one of the anonymous students. "This inspired us to begin our own type of protest."

The professor began to ask the students what they could do with their artistic knowledge, and since everyone in the class was learning website design, they decided on making a website for people that wanted to make a change.

"It has been a bumpy ride getting organized and balancing the tasks of designing a site (something nearly everyone in the class has never done before) and understanding the issues we are presenting," said the professor. "Though it has been challenging, we have learned that there is a true cost to promoting social reform—a price that someone has to pay for things to move forward."

The group of students here at CSULB are remaining anonymous because they don't want their professor to get in trouble, even though the professor says he wouldn't mind being exposed. The students also want to create a stir without affecting their personal lives. These students are in your classrooms; they want to keep their life as normal as possible.

"We could get in trouble with the school because we are working on such a controversial website on campus and we



Photos courtesy of hyperlinked.us

aren't allowed to do that, we can probably get kicked out of school," said another one of the anonymous students.

Hyperlinked.us is different from other websites because it gives people information on both ends of an issue, both for and against. The website will also link site visitors to other organizations, specifically focusing on the issue at hand. For example, the bullying page would have links to pages such as hrc.com, The Human Rights Campaign.

"It's a free country, or at least that's what we like to think. These days our nation is spending too much money, time and resources on the criminalization of marijuana and other petty drugs," said one of the anonymous design students.

The website launched on Nov. 30 and will continue to be updated daily. The students hope to get enough people interested to make a significant change.

"As an instructor, I am happy with everyone's progress," added the professor.

The students plan to post signs about the website around campus and get people's attention in artistic but non-destructive ways.

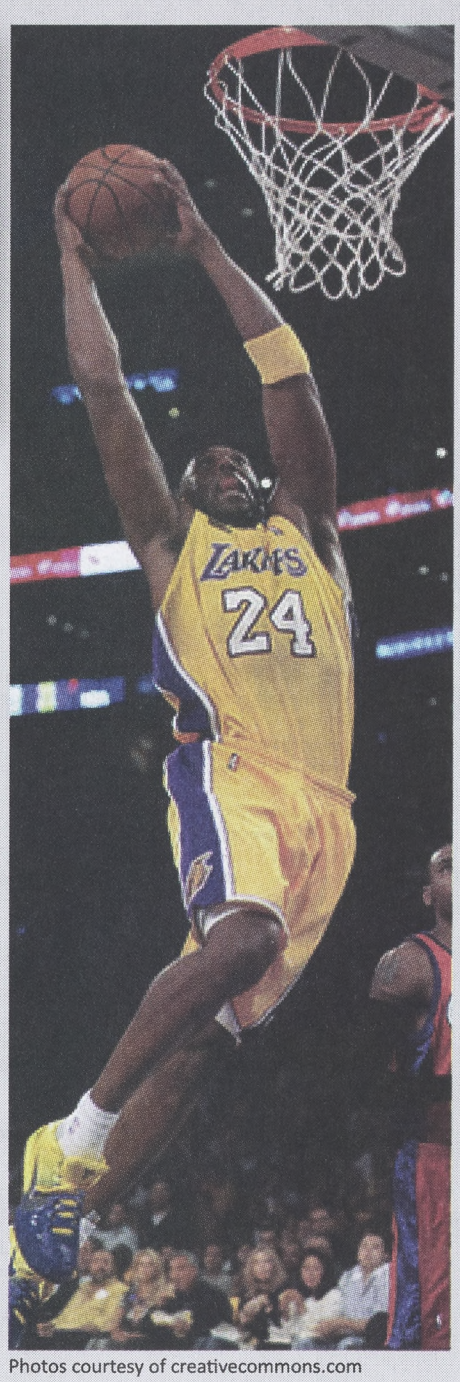
"We also plan to make a demonstration on campus with a weather balloon and a big sign hanging from it," said another anonymous student.

Keep your eye out for this group of motivated students and get hyperlinked.

# Five Alternatives to Hold You Over During the NBA Lockout

By Chasen Doerr

The NBA managed to do the complete opposite of what the NFL did when the NBA players started their own labor discussions two years ago with their owners. Now that the chance of there being no basketball this season, NBA fans will have to find other avenues to fill the void that basketball has left in their lives. Here are some alternatives to those still grieving over the loss of the NBA season.




Photos courtesy of creativecommons.com

## 1) Watch 49er Basketball

NBA fans may not be happy with the fact they won't get to see superstars like Kobe Bryant and Lebron James play this year, but there is a talented crop of younger athletes still playing this year. Our Long Beach State basketball team fell one game short last year of making it to the NCAA March Madness tournament. With the return of four starters off last years team and a solid group of newcomers, the Long Beach State mens basketball team should be a dominate force once again in the Big West Conference this year. Plus, with your student I.D. you can watch these talented players play for free.

## 2) Play NBA 2K 12

Every year the graphics in sports video games get more and more realistic and it's hard to sometimes tell which one is real. The graphics and gameplay of NBA 2K 12 are the closest thing to watching a game on television a NBA game has ever come. Plus you're in control. Some other cool features are you can play as former NBA greats like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. Play against your friends both in-person and online to end the debate of who is the best of all time.

## 3) Start a Pickup Game

The NBA lockout may be a blessing in disguise as it should force people who would be sitting at home watching the game to instead go outside and get some exercise. Fill up the time you spend watching the Lakers and instead show your friends you can play like Kobe in pickup games. The Student Wellness and Recreation Center has plenty of courts and basketballs for anybody to start a game. In fact, try to get President King Alexander out for a game, rumor has it he can ball.

## 4) Go Travel to Europe

If you really can't spend a year without seeing your favorite basketball stars, plan a trip to Europe where many players will be heading to play for big money during the lockout. NBA stars like Pau Gasol and Kobe Bryant have been offered big contracts to play just a few games overseas. It may be a good excuse for the Euro-trip you have always been planning, and while your there make sure to take in some of the sights.

## 5) Watch Hockey or Football

Always been just a basketball fan. Well there are plenty of others sports on during the NBA season that you may have never took the time to watch. The hockey season is underway already and you can catch the games on almost every night. If you have enough patience you can watch football on Sundays, it's just as physical sport as basketball and the fantasy leagues are just as fun.

# 2012: End of the World Bucket List

By **Chasen Doerr**



*Photo provided by creativecommons.org*

According to the Mayan calendar, the world is allegedly coming to an end on December 21, 2012. This is because the mystical calendar the Mayan's created thousands of years ago doesn't go past this date. For those believing next December that fire and brimstone will rain down upon our earth, or that great waves will flood the land, they may want to put together a bucket list of sorts to make sure the last year of their lives is by far their best. Here's a list of ideas CSULB students may want to check off before the end of days.

### January: Start one New Year's Resolution you will finish

Every New Year's people try to make a change to something in their lives. Big or small, these resolutions are within reach but usually require some work. Many give up on their New Year's resolutions before the year has even started and just say next year will be the year. Well, since there may not be a next year start a New Year's resolution that you know you can keep. Big or small it doesn't matter, just hold true to one promise you make this year.

### February: Find somebody to love

Nobody wants to be alone when the world comes to an end. So don't make this last Valentine's Day a last Singles' Awareness Day. Find somebody to spend the last year of the world with.

### March: Have the most epic St. Patrick's Day ever

Whether you like your Guinness, Jameson or Bailey's separate or all together in an Irish Car Bomb, make sure your luck doesn't run out early this year by celebrating like a true Irishman. Wear plenty of green, you don't want to be one person getting pinched all night, and party with your friends and a few red heads. Maybe this will be the year you catch a Leprechaun and come upon a pot of gold. Also, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Saturday, so no worries about being hung-over for class the next day.

### April: Go to Coachella

The three-day annual music festival taking place in Indio, Calif. every year has been growing exponentially since it started back in 1999. Now, the festival has grown so large they need to separate it into two identical weekends, April 13-15 and April 20-22. Last year, the festival had an eclectic array of big names inlcuding Skrillex, Kanye West, The Black Keys and Arcade Fire, spanning all genres of music. Make this one of the last big music festivals you go to.

### May: Go to Las Vegas

Kick off what will be the last summer vacation ever with a trip to the city of sin. Memorial Day weekend is one of the best weekends to be in Las Vegas as a handful of different performers show up to rock different shows and clubs around the strip. Also, there is entertainment for every type of person: gambling, shopping, shows, buffets, pool parties and clubs. The best part about Memorial Day weekend is it gives you one more day to rage, or, in some special cases, find that one friend your group mistakenly lost the drunken night before.

### June: Enjoy the California beaches

California has some of the worlds most beautiful and exotic beaches. La Jolla, Malibu, and Pismo Beach are all great places to relax and soak up some sun. Enjoy some of the last hot summer days at the beach and get your tan on.

### July: Celebrate Fourth of July with your own fireworks show

This requires some planning, but on your way back from Las Vegas pick up some good fireworks in Nevada and save them for the most epic Fourth of July celebration ever. Of course find a place where these fireworks can be shot off legally, then go to town. Make sure to bring a lot of friends and family around to enjoy your show.

### August: Visit distant friends and family

School and work make it a difficult time to stay in touch with friends and family. Since this could be the last time you get to see your cousins from out of state or your friends from high school, make a trip or have them come to you and share some quality time together. Reminisce about old times.

### September: Throw your own party

September means school has started and all your good friends you've met throughout the years will be back for what maybe everyone last's semester. Have everyone over to your place, set a theme, and make everyone where costumes. Go all out so everyone will be talking about the good time they had kicking off the last school semester.

### October: Win a costume contest

Come up with a topical Halloween costume and enter a contest. Plan ahead and put your own spin on the costume so everyone wants to take pictures with you that night. There could be cash prizes in it for you, too.

### November: Cook your own Thanksgiving dinner

You may not be able to recreate your mom or grandma's pumpkin pie, but it is still fun to try. Have an epic meal time creating your favorite Thanksgiving dishes and share them with friends, and if you're brave enough, your family.

### December: Treat yourself to a big gift

With whatever money you have left in your bank account, spend it all on the biggest gift you ever wanted. This can be a pricey iPad, a ticket to Costa Rica, a brand new car, or even that pony you always dreamed of as a child. Enjoy it for the last couple days the world has left. Remember those student loans? Just forget about 'em.

# December 2011

*Your guide to concerts, on campus event and local happenings*



College Night @The Laugh Factory Long Beach, $10, 8p.m.

1

Men's Basketball vs. BYU Hawaii @Pyramid, 7:05p.m.

2

29th Annual Belmont Shore Christmas Parade @Belmont Shore, FREE, 6p.m.

3

Long Beach Symphony Holiday Celebration @Terrace Theater, 2p.m.

4

Christmas Concert @Wayfarers Chapel, 7:30p.m.

5

Winterlit: A Holiday Celebration in Santa Monica @Third Street Promenade, 5p.m.

6

18th Annual Queen Mary Tree Lighting @The Queen Mary, 4p.m.-7:30p.m.

7

Women's Basketball vs. Nevada @Pyramid, 7p.m.

8

Prince of Peace Pageant @Wardlow Road, between Bellflower and Woodruff, 7:30p.m.

9

Christmas Candlelight Tour @4600 Virginia Road, $10 reservation required, 5:30p.m.

10

Daisy Avenue Entertainment Nights @Daisy Avenue, 20th Street, on the green, 7p.m.

11

Holiday on Ice-Outdoor Ice Rink @The Irvine Spectrum, 11a.m.-9:30p.m.

12

A Christmas Carol @South Coast Repertory, 7:30p.m.

13

David Archuleta @Club Nokia, 7p.m., $26-$36

14



15

Boyz II Men @Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, 9p.m., $29-$39

16

Naples Boat Parade @Naples Canals, 6p.m.

17

Tyrese @Club Nokia, 6:30p.m., $15.75-$43.75

18

Men's Basketball vs. Eastern New Mexico @Pyramid, 8:05p.m.

19

Season of Wishes @The Grove, 6p.m.

20



21

Los Angeles Ballet's "The Nutcracker" @Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 7:30p.m.

22

Kottonmouth Kings @City National Grove of Anaheim, 8p.m., $20

23

CHRISTMAS EVE

24

MERRY CHRISTMAS

25

Snow Day and Movie Night @Veterans Park, 11:30a.m.-6:30p.m.

26

Wicked @Pantages Theatre, 8p.m.

27

Holiday Wonderland @Hollywood Museum, 10a.m.-5p.m.

28

Women's Basketball vs. UC Riverside @Pyramid, 7p.m.

29



30

NEW YEARS EVE

31


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